

Amendment of April 9, 2008. The claims are allowable for the reasons stated in the Amendment of April 9, 2008, and as further discussed below.

Second, and in response to the position stated by the Examiner in the Advisory Action, the cited art does not render obvious the claimed invention for at least the reasons stated in the Remarks section of the Amendment of April 9, 2008 and the following additional reasons.

There are a number of structural and functional differences between the claimed invention and the primary reference (Goldrath) and any “reasonably apparent” combination of the primary reference with the secondary references. All of the structural and functional features set forth in the independent claim and the Figures of the application concern a “hub” type element of a liquid distribution system through which the fluid is flowing at two different times (twice) when traveling along the fluid line. Such a “hub” type system does not exist in Goldrath or any of the secondary references, nor would one of ordinary skill in the art be led to develop the claimed system from any of the disclosures or teachings of the cited references.

Moreover, the claimed device allows the injection of a new liquid into the system with the assistance of a pump. This is not the case with the Goldrath device where new liquid may only be brought into the device by way of gravity.

Please also note that page 8 of the Amendment of April 9, 2008, sets forth in detail the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art. These differences have not been disputed in the Advisory Action. As set forth on page 8 of the Amendment of April 9, the primary reference discloses and teaches that the liquid movement is unidirectional in contrast to the liquid movement in the claimed liquid distribution system that is bidirectional. Goldrath clearly teaches away from the claimed invention and cannot be combined in any “reasonably apparent” fashion with the secondary references to arrive at the claimed invention.

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For at least the reasons stated in the Amendment of April 9, 2008, and this submission, the application is in allowable condition. If the Examiner disagrees, then Applicants hereby request a personal interview to discuss the claimed invention and the cited prior art. In this regard, please contact the undersigned at 703-816-4009 to schedule a personal interview time that is convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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